RULES

AND

ARTICLES,

BY WHICH THE

Women's Society,

WHO MEET

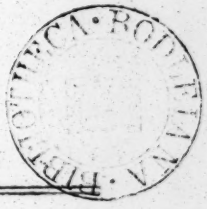
AT THE

CROSS-KEYS INN, in TEWKESBURY,

In the County of Glocester,

ARE TO BE

GOVERNED.



WHEN this Society in Love and Friendſhip join'd,
Their Hearts were true and to each other kind;
Ready are they, when troubles do oppreſs,
To eaſe their Siſter when ſhe's in diſtreſs.
Long may this Club, in unity and peace,
For ever ſtand, protected by God's grace:
May this our Stock, in wealth and peace abound,
And all our wiſhes with ſucceſs be crown'd:
May the Almighty, by his bounteous hand,
Protect this Club---for ever make it ſtand,
That we may live in friendſhip, love, and peace,
Link'd to each other by the Almighty's grace.

FROM THE OFFICE OF W. DYDE.

1800.

RULES, &c.

I. THAT this ſociety ſhall meet every fourth Monday in the year, at ELIZABETH RICKETTS's, at the CROSS-KEYS INN, in TEWKESBURY, at the following Hours, (that is to ſay) From Lady-day to Michaelmas, being the ſummer half year, at Seven of the clock in the evening, and continue 'till Nine, and from Michaelmas to Lady-day, being the winter half year, at Six of the clock in the evening, and continue 'till Eight.

II. That each and every perſon who ſhall be admitted into this ſociety, ſhall pay, for her entrance money into the ſame, the ſum of Two Shillings, of lawful money of Great Britain. —The number of members in this ſociety not to exceed One Hundred.

III. That any member being proved to have uttered and roſe a ſcandalous report of this ſociety, or that ſhall be heard to curſe the ſaid ſociety or club, in the club room, or any other place, ſhall pay Two Shillings and Six-pence to the box, or be excluded.

IV. That every member of this ſociety meet every club night, and pay Eight-pence Half-penny in the manner following, (that is to ſay) Six-pence to the box, and Two-pence Half-penny her club; and if well and in town, and doth not bring or ſend her money when the roll is called, being at Nine of the clock in the ſummer, and Eight of the clock in the winter, ſhall forfeit Two-pence to the box; and that every member ſhall obſerve and be ſtill, and keep their ſeats, after the clerk hath called ſilence three times, or forfeit Two-pence to the box.

V. That if any member doth not bring or ſend their contribution-money in twelve weeks, they ſhall be forever excluded; as the books muſt be cleared off every twelve weeks, and every year.

VI. No member to be entered into this ſociety above thirty years of age, after there be thirty members in this club. No benefit to be allowed to lying-in women.

VII. That if any controverſy ariſe in this ſociety, the ſame ſhall be determined by a committee of thirteen members, being the ſeven in office, and the ſix next anſwering to their names on the roll.

VIII. That there be a box with three locks and three keys to keep the treaſure in, and the keys be kept as followeth: One by the mother, and one by each of the matrons in office; and that all forfeitures be committed to the ſaid box; and that all forfeitures be paid the next club night, or to pay Two-pence extraordinary to the box, if in town: and if the mother and the two matrons, do not come or ſend the keys, by Seven of the clock in the ſummer, and Six of the clock in the winter, they ſhall forfeit Six-pence each for ſuch offence.

IX. That during the appointed time of this ſociety's meeting, no member ſhall have the liberty to call for any drink, without the leave of the matrons, or one of them, on forfeiture of Two-pence to the box, it being their charge to ſee the reckoning paid. Every member ſhall have the liberty of taking their pint of ale home, if they come to demand it themſelves, by Nine o'clock in the ſummer, or at Eight o'clock in the winter; but if they lye-in, or are ſick, it ſhall be ſent to them; and the two matrons ſhall be obliged to ſupply them with drink, ſo long as their club money will diſcharge what is called for, or forfeit One Shilling to the box.

X. That this ſociety ſhall not be removed to any other place, without juſt cauſe or reaſon, which ſhall be adjudged by a majority of the ſociety, ſo long as ſecurity can be had for the box: any member propoſing or promoting the ſame, ſhall be excluded.

XI. That there ſhall be two matrons, two inſpectors, and two aſſiſtants, each to have their turns on the roll; and if either of theſe ſhould die, or be excluded the ſociety, during

her or their ſervitude of the ſaid offices, another member ſhall be choſen the next club night to ſerve in her turn, till the next yearly meeting; and thoſe refuſing to ſerve in their turns, to pay Two Shillings to the box, and the next member on the roll to be choſen.

XII. That if any member be convicted of felony, ſhe ſhall not only looſe the benefit of this ſociety, but be forever excluded: and if any member prove to be with child of a baſtard, ſhe ſhall, on its being made clear againſt her, be excluded this ſociety, and receive no benefit therefrom.

XIII. That the two old matrons ſhall make an entertainment yearly, on the fourth day of June, and there ſhall be an annual ſermon preached, and the expenſes attending the ſame, to be paid out of the box: Each member ſhall meet at Ten o'clock in the morning, at the mother's houſe, decently apparelled, to go to church, or forfeit One Shilling to the box, unleſs prevented by ſickneſs, or living out of town more than ten miles; and every member ſhall pay One Shilling to the dinner, and Six-pence to be ſpent: Each member's money to be laid out as the matrons ſhall think moſt adviſeable. Dinner to be on the table at One o'clock.

XIV. That any perſon or perſons ſhall and may be choſen member or members of this ſociety, whether they have had the ſmall-pox or not, but that no member or members of this ſociety ſhall have any benefit from the box, whilſt ſhe or they hath or have the ſmall pox.

XV. That the two matrons ſhall give up their accounts every year, on the general day of meeting, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, to be inſpected by the inſpectors, who ſhall ſupply their places of matrons, and the two aſſiſtants their places of inſpectors, and the two next on the roll their places of aſſiſtants: And that each and every member of this ſociety ſhall viſit the ſick members of the ſaid ſociety in their proper turns, as they ſtand on the roll.

XVI. That if the two matrons ſhall ſuffer more drink to be brought into the club room, during the time of meeting, than each member's club, it ſhall be at their own charge; and if the two matrons lay out or expend any more money at the yearly dinner, than each member's allowance, the ſame ſhall be at their own charge.

XVII. That no perſon ſhall have benefit, until ſhe hath belonged to the ſociety one whole year, and then ſhe ſhall receive Four Shillings a week, while ſhe is ſick, lame or blind, or unable to work at her trade, but if ſuch ſickneſs, lameneſs, or blindneſs ſhall continue ſix months, ſuch member or members to be inſpected by a Doctor, who ſhall be paid for his trouble out of the box, and his opinion ſhall be laid before the members at a full meeting of the club, as half-pay, in ſome particular caſes, may be found neceſſary, and ſuch half-pay, whether to be allowed or not, ſhall be determined by a majority of the members, but no lying-in women ſhall receive any benefit from this ſociety.

XVIII. That all ſick member or members belonging to this ſociety, and who ſhall have declared upon the box, ſhall be viſited every day by all the members of this ſociety, in their regular and proper turns, during the time ſuch member or members ſhall remain ill and on the box, or forfeit for every ſuch default Six-pence to the box: if they ſhall find the ſick member at work, or, as they ſhall think, defrauding the box, through idleneſs or want of buſineſs, they ſhall be empowered by this article to ſtop their pay until the next club-night, then to be determined by the committee.

XIX. That if any member of this ſociety, who goes out of town, and continues a member thereof, is afflicted with ſickneſs, lameneſs, or blindneſs, if not brought on themſelves by ill-conduct, but it is proved, that ſuch illneſs is the will of God, which muſt be certified by the miniſter and churchwardens, where ſhe ſhall then reſide, and directed to the Mother of this ſociety, ſhe ſhall receive the ſame benefit as if in town, and the two matrons ſhall take care to remit her the money.

XX. That no member be allowed to bring a child, or children into the room, except it is a child that ſucks.

XXI. That the two matrons ſhall not embezzle any part of the ſtock they are entruſted with for the ſupply of the ſick, ſhe or they, ſo offending, ſhall be obliged to pay what they have ſo embezzled, and be for ever excluded this ſociety.

XXII. That if it ſhould pleaſe God, that any member or members of this ſociety, ſhould die, having been entered eight months or upwards, if the money in the box amounts

to Twenty Pounds, (for there can be no benefit from it before it amounts to that ſum) ſhe, or they, ſhall be allowed Thirty Shillings for their burial, and likewiſe a pall, which ſhall be paid for out of the box; and when the money in the box amounts unto Forty Pounds, or upwards, if any member, or members of this ſociety die, having been three years in this ſociety, they ſhall be allowed to diſpoſe of, or their friends ſhall become entitled unto, Forty Shillings, and likewiſe Thirty Shillings for the funeral of ſuch deceaſed member, and a pall; And alſo, if any member or members die, having been three years in this ſociety, as aforeſaid, and the money in the box amounts unto Fifty Pounds, they ſhall be allowed to diſpoſe of Fifty Shillings, or their friends ſhall become intitled unto the ſame, beſides the Thirty Shillings for their funeral, and a pall; and furthermore, if any member or members of this ſociety, die, having been members thereof three years, as hereinbefore-mentioned, and the money in the box amounts unto Sixty Pounds, ſhe or they ſhall be allowed to diſpoſe of Three Pounds, or their friends ſhall become intitled to the ſame, beſides the Thirty Shillings for their funeral, and a pall: and every member of this ſociety, ſhall meet at the Mother's houſe, when invited by the aſſiſtants, or aſſiſtant, or forfeit One Shilling to the box, unleſs prevented by ſickneſs, or living out of town, and each member ſhall appear as clean and decent as poſſible to attend the corpſe, on default thereof, to pay One Shilling to the box: and that the Mother conduct them to deceaſed's, and from thence to the place of interment, and ſhe to be followed by the two matrons, and two inſpectors, and the two aſſiſtants ſhall place the reſt two and two, as they ſtand on the roll, and they themſelves ſhall bring up the rear of the ſociety, and if any member refuſes to walk with their fellow-member next on the roll, or comes indecent to attend the funeral, ſhall forfeit Six-Pence to the box, and each member to ſpend Two-Pence at the funeral of each member, whether in or out of town, and to be paid the next club-night, or forfeit Two-Pence more, if in town.

XXIII. That if any member's huſband ſhould die, each member ſhall pay Six-Pence out of their pocket, on the next club-night, towards his funeral.

XXIV. That this ſociety ſhall continue as long as three perſons of the ſaid ſociety ſhall be living, and at the death of any one of the ſaid three perſons, the money in the box ſhall be divided between the two ſurviving members, ſhare and ſhare alike; but any member propoſing to break up this club, in any other manner, to be for ever excluded, without receiving any benefit from the box.

XXV. That if any member of this ſociety, ſhall upbraid any fellow-member, of being chargeable to the box, either in the club-room, or elſewhere, ſuch member ſhall forfeit, for every ſuch offence, One Shilling to the box, and if the perſon that is ſo upbraided, doth not appear to charge the accuſed perſon with it, ſhe ſhall forfeit One Shilling.

XXVI That if any member of this ſociety ſhall reflect on any ſiſter-member, on account of her age, ſuch member, for ſo reflecting, if proved by two members of this ſociety, ſhall be for ever excluded, as the club is ever eſtabliſhed to help each other, in unity, peace, and love, which every member muſt endeavour to promote, to the utmoſt of their power.—— Each and every member ſhall pay Four-Pence for a copy of theſe articles.

XXVII. That the mother of this club, as a member of the ſaid club, have no right to ſerve any office, ſhe being the mother, excuſes her from any other office.

XXVIII. The clerk ſhall be obliged to read the articles every three months if required, and attend at yearly meetings by ten o'clock in the morning, or forfeit One Shilling.

XXIX. That theſe articles inſerted, ſhall ſtand in full force, without adding or diminiſhing, unleſs in manner and form preſcribed by act of parliament. And it is and ſhall be agreed by, and between, all parties, that do execute theſe preſents, or that ſhall after the execution hereof, be admitted a member of this ſociety, that whoſoever ſhall be found negligent in obeying, fulfilling, performing and keeping all and every the orders and agreements herein-before-mentioned, to be obeyed, fulfilled, performed and kept, ſuch member ſo neglecting, ſhall not only loſe the benefit of this ſociety, but be for ever excluded the ſame.

XXX. No perſon to be entered a member of this ſociety, that has any bodily complaint, and if any ſuch do, by concealing their diſorder, they ſhall, on its being diſcovered, be forever excluded this ſociety.

XXXI. That the box ſhall be opened for to pay the ſick members belonging to this ſociety, on the Fourth Day of June, which will be in the Year of our Lord, One Thouſand Eight Hundred.

I do hereby certify, that the above rules, orders, and regulations, were exhibited to his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, at the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, holden for the County of Glouceſter, on Tueſday, in the Week next after the Feaſt of Saint Michael the Arch-angel, in the Thirty-ninth Year of the Reign of King George the Third, and were by them allowed and confirmed, purſuant to the Act of Parliament in that caſe made and provided.

S. PERRY,

Deputy Clerk of the Peace.

W. DYDE, PRINTER, TEWKESBURY.